



Opposed for HB 1493
House Industry, Business and Labor Committee
Chairman Warrey
February 12, 2025

Chairman Warrey and Members of the House Industry, Business and Labor Committee,

I am Keli Rosselli-Sullivan, Workforce Development | Military Liaison of the Minot Area Chamber EDC (MACEDC). On behalf of the MACEDC and our over 600 member investors, I offer testimony in opposition of House Bill 1493 to repeal the Office of Legal Immigration.

The MACEDC mission is to advocate for and invest in business activity by being a collaborative partner in the community, focused on improving quality of life for all. MACEDC has five key strategic pillars, one pillar focuses on workforce development. We believe that House Bill 1493 would have a negative impact on the workforce environment of our great state.

Currently, for every unemployed person in North Dakota there are nearly three job openings available. Job Service North Dakota's most recent estimates as of Feb. 5 show over 15,000 known open jobs, up 14% from the previous month. The agency estimated as many as 40,000 openings could be available if all positions were advertised.

Businesses, including those in the Bakken, have attempted to recruit and retain workers from across the country but those campaigns often can't meet the full workforce needs. This led to efforts like Bakken GROW, which tapped into humanitarian programs with legal pathways for Ukrainian refugees to fill open positions in the oil fields. This program filled 60 positions in Western North Dakota, 10 to the Minot area alone.

It is crucial for our workforce to have assistance from the Office of Legal Immigration to help attract and retain workers from outside the country and give businesses resources to do so as well. Baby boomers are retiring and there are not enough children being born in our country to fill these jobs.

As a person who works to help our businesses attract and retain employees in our community, I ask for your support with opposing House Bill 1493 and am available for any questions you may have.

Thank you,

Keli Rosselli-Sullivan
Minot Area Chamber EDC Workforce Development | Military Liaison